

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4904

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, US

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS URGES PRESIDENT FORD NOT TO GO TO PEKING

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: AFTER NEARLY A TWO-WEEK HIATUS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S DEMISE ON APRIL 5, THE LOCAL PRESS HAS AGAIN BEGUN TO PUBLISH EDITORIALS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS SEVERAL EDITORIALS HAVE LINKED SETBACKS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH US POLICY TOWARDS THE ROC AND HAVE URGED THAT PRESIDENT FORD RECONSIDER HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO THE PRC. FOLLOWING ARE SELECTED EXCERPTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AN APRIL 18 TA HUA WAN PAO EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE AWARENESS OF THE AMERICANS OF THE ASIAN CRISIS" SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S APRIL 16 STATEMENT TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS ON US/ROC REULATIONS "INDEED PROVIDES US WITH CERTAIN COMFORT".....WE HOPE THAT THIS REPRESENTS A NEW REALIZATION OF ROC/US RELATIONS OF THE US GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE US WILL TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO CORRECT THE DEVIATIONS IN THE DETENTE POLICY WITH BOTH THE USSR AND THE PRC". THE
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EDITORIAL ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FORD STATE-

MENT WILL SERVE TO "CORRECT A NUMBER OF MAJOR BLUNDERS."

3. AN APRIL 19 TZU LI WAN PAO EDITORIAL ENTITLED "HOPE PRESIDENT FORD WILL CANCEL HIS PEIPING TRIP" SAID THAT "SINCE FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON ACCLAIMED DETENTE AND MET WITH THE PRC LEADERSHIP, THE US HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE ROC." GIVEN THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA AND THE STATUS OF US/USSR AND US/PRC RELATIONS, "IT IS BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT THE US/PRC DETENT WILL REAP NOTHING BUT HEAVY LOSSES FOR THE US. THEREFORE, INTELLIGENT AMERICANS LIKE SENATOR GOLDWATER WHO SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD CANCEL HIS SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE PRC INDEED MADE A CORRECT SUGGESTION. IN VIEW OF THE COMMON INTEREST AND THE CORDIAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ROC AND THE US, PRESIDENT FORD HAS NO NEED TO REPEAT THE HISTORIC MISTAKE MADE BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON WHICH SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED THE US AND ITS ALLIES."

4. AN APRIL 19 CHINA NEWS EDITORIAL SAID "THE ROC AND THE FREE CHINESE PEOPLE APPRECIATE THE CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP PLEDGED BY "VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER.....WE ARE ALSO GRATIFIED THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THIS COUNTRY." AFTER THE KOREAN WAR, "THE US DECIDED TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TREATY WITH THIS COUNTRY....THERE WAS NEVER ANY DOUBT THAT THE AGGRESSOR BOTH COUNTRIES HAD IN MIND WAS RED CHINA....THE US TAIWAN DEFENSE COMMAND WAS ESTABLISHED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TREATY." US FORCES HERE "ARE IMMENSELY IMPORTANT IN DETERRING COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. THEY ARE AN AMERICAN PRESENCE SYMBOLIZING THE EXISTENCE OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND THE DETERMINATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO STAND TOGETHER. THE MILITARY PARTNERSHIP WAS NOT WEAKENED BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP TO THE CHINESE MAINLAND AND THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. THIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE US AS WELL AS THE ROC....DESPITE THE EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING CHINESE COMMUNIST AGGRESSIVENESS, THERE ARE THOSE IN THE US WHO NOW SAY PEIPING COULD BE TRUSTED NOT TO ATTACK TAIWAN. THEY WANT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE US MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. BEHIND THIS DESIRE LIES THE OBJECTIVE OF A CLOSER WASHINGTON-PEIPING RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CHANGES IN THE WASHINGTON-TAIPEI PARTNERSHIP AND ALLIANCE. PRESIDENT FORD SAID THE AGENDA FOR HIS VISIT TO PEIPING LATER THIS YEAR IS NOT YET SET. FRIENDS OF THE ROC IN THE US AND OF THE US IN TAIWAN SHOULD EXERT MAXIMUM INFLUENCE TO SEE THAT NOTHING ON THAT

AGENDA THREATENS THIS COUNTRY AND ITS RELATIONS WITH AMERICA."

5. AN APRIL 20 LIEN HO PAO EDITORIAL SAID THAT "IF THE US WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESTIGE AMONG THE FREE COUNTRIES....THE ONLY WAY FOR PRESIDENT FORD IS TO ANNOUNCE RESOLUTELY THAT HE WILL CANCEL HIS PLAN TO VISIT PEIPING."

7. AN APRIL 20 CHUNG HUA SHIH PAO EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVE ITS DETERMINATION IN ASIA BY ACTION SINCE WORDS CANNOT EASE ASIAN SUSPICIONS. "WHAT ACTION SHOULD THE US TAKE? THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IS TO ANNOUNCE THE CANCELLATION OF FORD'S VISIT TO THE CHINA MAINLAND THIS YEAR." THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT "IF FORD IS BLIND TO THIS AND INSISTS ON VISITING THE CHINA MAINLAND, HE WILL THEN BE DEGRADING HIMSELF, WHICH IS MUCH MORE THAN NIXON DID." FORD'S APRIL 16 STATEMENT ON US/ROC RELATIONS "MUST BE NOTED BY THE FREE ASIAN COUNTRIES, WHICH SHOULD REALIZE THE US IS DETERMINED TO ADHERE TO ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS AND CARRY OUT THEIR COMMITMENTS." IF FORD THEN GOES TO THE PRC, "THE TRUST OF SUCH COUNTRIES WILL BE UNDERMINED."

7. THE APRIL 20 TAIWAN JIH PAO EDITORIAL SAID THAT WHAT CONCERNS US MOST IS WHETHER THE US WILL SET UP "NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE PRC DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING." GIVEN THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH RELATIONS WILL BE MORE HARMFUL THAN BENEFICIAL TO THE US." "OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT IT IS VERY LIKELY FORD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD" VISITING THE PRC "HAS COOLED DOWN AND THAT HE MAY CANCEL HIS VISIT"....FORD'S APRIL 16 STATEMENT "IS BY NO MEANS ACCIDENTAL. IT IS A SIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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